

## 4/11/23 Opioid Abatement Committee

Present:

Amy Malone – Rochester City Councilor

Nicole Rodler – Rochester PD Juvenile Diversion Coordinator

Ashley Wright – Strafford County Public Health Network

Michelle Halligan Foley - Rochester Career & Technology Education Director

Erin Nasino- Community Outreach Facilitator

Joss Bernie - Waypoint

Palana Belken – NH Harm Reduction Coalition

Nicole Dale-Hogan – Spaulding HS LADAC

3:40 Meeting started

Malone stated that part of what they have talked about in the past was the Rochester Mental Health Alliance. There is a website proposal if that was something they can do with the opioid funds that Rodler can speak to. Rodler stated that the document she passed out is research to create a webpage to house opioid and mental health as the school is the only one that has a webpage right now. This is information and costs to create the website and have someone who would maintain it. Then potentially looking down the road a coordinator would manage it. The document breaks down all the programming pieces that it would take and explains each one. And then describes each option. Malone stated that option three is irrelevant.

Wright asked if they are giving RMHC funding for this. Rodler stated yes. RMHC is coming to them because they have the money and RMHC has the need

Malone asked how the person that will be the liaison will get paid from the stipend that the group would be giving and assumes that Blaine or Terence could help with that. Stating that the website part is easy but the payment part will need some work.

Halligan-Foley stated that she is looking at option one because they want to get it started and up and running. She tries to do the Creteau Regional Technology website and spends more than five hours on it. Down the road they can look at backing that off but thinks they should start full throttle.

Wright stated that she doesn't think that \$3,000 for a liaison is a big ask given how much money there is and the necessity. Developing might be a little bit more but the maintenance is ongoing

Dale-Hogan asked if this was the final draft of the proposal. Rodler stated that they have to figure out which one works the best so that's why they were given different pricing. Dale-Hogan stated it could then vary depending on what they choose

Malone stated that they definitely have the money and if this is something they move forward with she will update the City Council in May and they could probably put this through to a vote if she could get it on the agenda. If they could get some of these questions on how a human gets paid this could be super easy. It's low hanging fruit with a big impact. But they need to let people know why and how they are doing it.

Halligan-Foley stated she thinks they should go all in because if they have an event they can do it all.

Halligan-Foley asked if they vote here. Malone asked if this seems good and to do a show of hands. *Passed for option one*

Malone stated they could go up to \$7500 so it gives a little more room for the liaison person and maybe they get some printing out of it

There was a discussion on how the liaison would get paid and who to talk to to help figure that part out

Rodler stated that Celeste is willing to voluntarily to get this up and she told Celeste it could take quite a bit of time so Celeste needs to get a stipend for it. There was discussion on how to pay a city employee if doing a job that is not part of their description. Malone stated she will send an email to Terence O'Rourke and Blaine Cox asking about what they can do

Malone stated that if they can find a way to go about this, they should be able to bring it forward for a vote in May. Belken asked if it needs to go to a Public Hearing because that would take it an extra month

Malone stated she went to Concord last week for a recovery housing pilot that has \$3,000,000 for supportive housing for people in recovery. It has been piloted for the last three years that no one has taken advantage of. There are grants available up to \$500,000 per project for recovery friendly housing. Rochester is an entitlement community so they do not need to apply for as they are entitled to it because they are considered a poor community. There is also another pot that they can get for housing through a nonprofit that could potentially eliminate some barriers and offset some costs.

Halligan-Foley asked if the City would approve of that. She knows they are trying to reconstruct the city. Malone stated she just started a whole new organization and Positive Transitions is looking for another space. That the sober houses have been great. You'll see about 30 people from sober houses cleaning up the streets tonight.

Halligan-Foley asked about Rochester kids who are in the hospital in a bed for a week and then go off to not Rochester to get help. She'd love to see them not go to Hampstead. Rodler stated that that is a different kind of facility.

Malone stated that that pot of money is for what she just said. What she feels is that Rochester has a bunch of needs that are unique and they look for other organizations to fill their needs. They have these layers but Erin can't put anyone anywhere. How many kids are leaving Spaulding HS that want to go to college but can't stay with their parents. They need a shared living situation and need the rooms. There are couples living in cars and the woods. Malone continued that if she had a husband and they were living in the woods, he would not leave her for treatment. What they want to do is create multiple spaces for all different levels. However zoning is going to be a problem. Right now everything is housing, homelessness, and young people.

Halligan-Foley asked if most homeless people under 25. Bernie stated that he wouldn't say most but would say a good amount are under 25. And there are some invisible homelessness under 25.

Nasino stated that they have portable showers but zoning doesn't allow them. She asked if Waypoint can do it where they open it to older people.

Malone stated that Dover does have showers at the McConnell Center. Nasino stated that they don't do that anymore. That she would love to see a place where you could shower once a week. Rodler stated she keeps entertaining this with the Rec Department as there are showers there sitting empty.

Wright stated for the recovery housing piece there is a forum in Manchester next week however the time isn't convenient. Malone asked if there was a way to do it virtual and Wright stated she didn't think so as it's meant to be a roundtable experience. Wright stated that even if they can't go, they should get the notes and summary of it and have a mini session here. They should talk to Maggie Fogarty. They have the funding and it feels like they have the buy in. They all want to help but they need to be solutions focused. Figure out what works and then lean on the notes from the meeting tomorrow instead of always trying to find a place to start.

Malone asked how do they get these other organizations that are doing countywide or statewide to come back in if they have the units and the organizations have case managers. Anything inside Rochester that doesn't already have a case manager that a landlord wants they can connect that piece. They could build the most beautiful place but if there aren't enough people that care it's not going to last. Organizations are screaming for support. Exactly like transitional living except it's co-ed and there can be couples and no age bracket. With some sort of support and add the work force housing into it.

Wright stated that work force housing developments are not affordable. Malone stated that she never really noticed that until she came on city council.

Wright stated that if they are going to talk about work force housing – if they are going to attract dentists and dental hygienist – they need to create livable communities and not luxury condos. They are widening that gap and not filling in the middle

Malone stated she thought it would be beneficial to invite Mike Scala to a meeting since he talks a lot about work force housing

Wright stated there is group called something along the lines of Work Force Housing of Greater Seacoast and they do a lot of advocacy and would probably be able to give info on where to start

Belken stated that Nick Taylor came and presented for work force housing in Gonic recently and he knows the data

Malone stated she would love to do a meeting and see if they could get Taylor and Scala

Wright stated they need to figure out what the bigger picture is and what the big goals are. She doesn't want to derail them off the topic of work force housing but they need to figure out what their big strategies are. Rodler stated that their housing is depleted and it all ties in together

Wright stated that she thinks from a leverage standpoint they need to find a middle ground which would then in turn strengthen the community. If they can show why they want to do something that will then build a better community. That's why she always goes back to strategic planning because it helps make your case. Wright stated that she likes putting goals on sticky notes, hanging them up, and then group them by what you want to accomplish and see what everything has in common. It's more of a logic model. Strategies, goals, activities as the main groups. They don't need to spend a year in strategic planning but if they can identify those things it will give them more leverage when they make asks. Malone stated that makes sense and she has the template in her email

Wright stated for their next meeting can they bring in all the strategies listed out. They can hang them up and figure out which ones are relevant to this group or what is missing. Look to see if there is crossover – for example something that the MHA can manage. Or is there something they aren't doing that they definitely want to do. Then they take all that is remaining on the list and move forward.

Malone asked how long do they think it would take and if they should try a different time. Wright state the she is happy to take it after their next meeting and work on some

of the pieces. But initially they need everyone there to talk through it. And if they don't have time to pocket things she can do that. All the pre stuff happened already so now they can pick a direction. They can make plans and let specifics come as they move forward.

Malone stated they will plan on regular meeting time next month but if people can be there at 4:00 she will be there at for that time

4:52 adjourned